



Peligran

October
2026



CONNECT. EXPLORE. REWILD.

A Nature Day-Camp Experience for Adults

\$200
3 DAYS

\$150
WITH PROOF OF
COLLEGE ID

NOV. 6 - 8

FRI 1 PM - 8 PM

SAT 9 AM - 5 PM

SUN 9 AM - 1 PM

AT THE AUDUBON HOUSE

*195 Oslo Road,
Vero Beach*

**HIKING, NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY,
SILLY GAMES, WATERCOLORS,
BIRDING, KAYAKING, S'MORES,
AND SO MUCH MORE!**

REGISTER TODAY AT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/CAMPWILDROOTS26](https://bit.ly/campwildroots26) OR SCAN BELOW!



UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Wish List

Pelican Island Audubon is in need of the following articles and we are asking for your help:

- Birdseed, especially black oil sunflower seeds
- 8.5 x 11 printer paper
- New Adult life jackets
- New Youth life jackets

Items can be dropped off at Audubon House, 195 9th St. SE (Oslo Rd), Vero Beach, Monday through Friday from 9AM to 1PM. For more information, email piaudubon@yahoo.com or call 772-567-3520.

Thank you!

MEETINGS

View the full presentation schedule at PelicanIslandAudubon.org

IMPORTANT CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION NOTICE

Pelican Island Audubon will no longer be meeting at the Vero Beach Community Center. Instead, we will be meeting at the Garden Club of Indian River County, 2526 17th Avenue, in downtown Vero Beach.

Monday, October 12, 2026

North Indian River County Library starting at 6PM
1001 Sebastian Blvd. (CR 512), Sebastian

The Rights of Rivers: Reimagining Personhood
with Diane Morgan

Monday, October 26, 2026

Garden Club of Indian River County starting at 7PM
2526 17th Avenue, Vero Beach

A Modest Proposal to Facilitate Seagrass Growth in the Indian River Lagoon
with Christopher Moore

Monday, November 9, 2026

North Indian River County Library starting at 6PM
1001 Sebastian Blvd. (CR 512), Sebastian

Goodrich Island: The Audubon Bird Sanctuary in the St. Sebastian River
with Tim Glover, President, Friends of St. Sebastian River

Our Mission: To preserve and protect the animals, plants, and natural communities, and the land and water on which they depend in Indian River County through education, advocacy, and public awareness.

Executive Director **Missy Weiss**
Environmental Educator **Jennifer Satterly**
Office Manager **Bob Montanaro**

Officers & Directors

Officers

Board Chair **Richard H. Baker, Ph.D.**
Vice-Chair **Steve Palmquist**
2nd Chair **William Loftus, Ph.D.**

Recording Secretary **Lorna Thibeault**

Corresponding Secretary **Open**

Treasurer **Steve Goff**

Elected Directors:

Albert Alley, M.D. '29

Vin Gemmiti, '29

Nick Polge, Ph.D. '28

Bonnie Swanson '27

Appointed Board Members:

Leah Blythe

Justine Carter

Janet Courtney

Will Johnson

Donna Halleran

John Nelson

Hadi Shalhoub, D.O.

Photo by Bob Montanaro.

Stop by and browse the native plant nursery - over 34,000 native plants & trees distributed so far! Free Bald Cypress currently available in 1 gallon pots plus a selection of native plants are available at low prices.

Audubon House Native Plant Nursery 195 9th Street SE (Oslo Rd), Vero Beach, on Monday & Wednesday - 9AM to 11AM & Saturday - 9AM to Noon
More at PelicanIslandAudubon.org

All schedules subject to change. Check PelicanIslandAudubon.org for latest.

FIELD TRIPS

Space is limited. Registration is required.

For the schedule & to register visit

PelicanIslandAudubon.org

Thursday Morning Hikes with Ricky Ray

Various locations – Meeting at 7:00 a.m. at IHOP (westside) 88th Avenue & Route 60 – All level welcome – For more information – call/text: 928-853-9654 – snacks, water, binoculars, and bug spray is recommended. No registration required. Most walks are 3-4 miles.



Audubon Advocate Photography Exhibit at the Intergenerational Center See Nature Through the Eyes of Local Fifth Graders

The Cultural Council of Indian River County and Pelican Island Audubon Society invite the community to enjoy a special photography exhibition featuring graduates of the Audubon Advocate program showcasing their unique perspectives of local wildlife and natural habitats.

The exhibit will be on display at the Intergenerational Recreation Center, 1590 9th St. SW (Oslo Rd), Vero Beach, from August 17–November 1, 2026. Admission is free.

Pelican Island Audubon Society, Inc. is registered with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Div. of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within Florida 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.

Audubon House & Native Plant Nursery
195 9th Street SE (Oslo Rd.), Vero Beach
M - F | 9AM - 1PM

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1833, Vero Beach, FL 32961

Phone: 772-567-3520

E-Mail: piaudubon@yahoo.com

Website:

www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org

Fall is the Best Time to Plant Trees

My Hoot



Richard H. Baker, Ph.D.

Our Most
Valuable
Resource for
Our Earth

Photo by Richard H. Baker, Ph.D.

Climate change is NOT a myth or hoax. It is real. It is having an impact on Indian River County, our nation, and our planet. This year is the hottest ever recorded for our country, and it is rising as humans add to atmospheric CO₂ yearly. Trees are essential for humanity's survival. Yet, our cooling trees and forests continue to be cut down for development, mining, and other excuses. We are at a critical survival point where our water, air, and land are being degraded, affecting our wildlife, us, and our Earth.

Mining for minerals and fossil fuels adds to CO₂ and devastates our preserved lands, National Preserves, as well as countering the roadless rule for new roads and logging in our national forests. More than 1/3 of our fish and wildlife species are at risk of extinction in just the next 30 years or less. Unfortunately, we will not know when we reach a tipping point of no return, when we can no longer do anything to reduce the heating of our Earth to survive. Yet, we can make changes in our lifetime: See *Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation* by Paul Hawken (2021).

Trees are the best solution for reversing the negative effects of global warming. Santiago, Chile, did mass plantings that reduced city temperatures by up to 8 degrees Celsius! Each tree saves energy, provides shade and windbreaks for our homes, cools our cities and neighborhoods, reduces the need for fertilizers, removes carbon dioxide and air pollutants from our air, retains topsoil, and saves drinking water for us and all our living species. Trees provide food for us, our birds, butterflies, and fish. Our most beautiful and expensive communities have large, beautiful trees providing beauty and cooling! Planting trees is a no-brainer!

Fall is the time to plant. Let's each plant ONE Tree this fall. NOT a Palm Tree! Palms are not even trees, but more like grasses! Come get FREE Trees (Southern Live Oak, Bald Cypress, Mahogany, and Sweet Acacia) at our Audubon House Native Plant Nursery (open 9-11 am on Mondays and Wednesdays, and 9 am-12 pm on Saturdays). We also have beautiful native plants for sale at a great price. The free, beautiful Bald Cypress can be planted on either wet or dry land.

Our County can do more! Let's pass an ordinance to require developers NOT to clear-cut, but to leave at least 2 or 3 or more trees on a lot. Let's plant more native plants in our yards to improve our local ecosystems. Estimates suggest an average tree can harbor over 25,000 insects of hundreds of species, which birds require when feeding nestlings.

Our county has helped keep development low by its visionary 35-foot building height limit. Now let's make our county unique by having city and county ordinances that require a minimum of 70% of public parks and other municipal properties to have native plants. This has already been done in Jersey City, NJ. (<https://wildones.org/nj-native-plant-ordinance/>). Their new ordinance also requires planting 70% native plant species, including in the right-of-way wherever applicable, and where the tree species will have the highest chances of survival. This will protect and promote micro-habitats in urban areas to save our pollinators and birds and help in their migration north and south. It mitigates the effects of habitat loss from development and climate change to promote public health, safety, and welfare. Other cities are doing similar ordinances. We need visionary leaders to make this happen here.

Another new city and county ordinance we need is to reduce the amount of non-native sod put down from 50% to 15% in new homes and housing developments and replace it with Florida natives. In collaboration with the **Native Plant Society, Eugenia Chapter**, we have so far planted 6 native plant demonstration gardens at the entrances to the Indian River County Commission, Up Against Poverty, three US Post Offices, and at Vero Beach Elementary School. Each one is different, so go see them to get ideas for your yard and pick up pamphlets on how to plant your own "garden park." We provided native plants to Vero Beach High School and helped plant them. Folks seeing these gardens are now coming to get trees and plants at our nursery. We have distributed over 36,00 native trees and plants. Let's all work together to transform our County!

Let's reverse the continuing loss of more than 1 billion breeding birds from North America since 1970 by restoring habitats both here and along the migratory flyways to the neotropics. Landowners - join us and the many other folks in our community to enhance our properties for wildlife and leave the land better than we found it!



by Missy Weiss, PIAS Executive Director

Florida voters will decide Amendment 3 this November. The proposed constitutional amendment would substantially expand the homestead property-tax exemption for non-school local levies, increasing it to \$150,000 in 2027 and \$250,000 in 2028, with future inflation adjustments. It would also reduce the annual cap on assessment increases for non-homestead properties from 10% to 5%. Because it is a constitutional amendment, it must receive at least 60% voter approval to pass.

Supporters may see Amendment 3 as property-tax relief for homeowners. But its effects could extend well beyond individual tax bills. The amendment applies only to non-school levies, yet those revenues help counties, cities, and special districts provide many of the services residents rely on every day. The proposed measure does not provide a dedicated replacement source of state funding for revenue local governments would lose.

At a recent LEARN presentation, the Indian River Community Foundation estimated statewide revenue reductions of \$5 billion in the first year, \$8.8 billion in the second year, and \$11.86 billion once the measure is fully phased in. In Indian River County, the projected losses were \$26 million in the first year and \$45 million in the second. These figures are projections, but they illustrate the scale of the budget choices local governments could face if the amendment is approved.

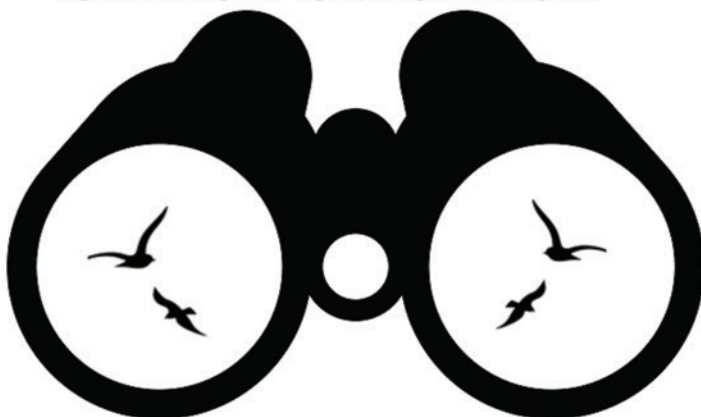
As Audubon Florida cautions, local governments need adequate funding to provide the services on which communities depend. When local revenues decline, communities may face difficult decisions affecting parks, flood control, water management, growth planning, environmental review, public safety, transportation, and other essential functions. Reduced capacity in these areas could make it harder to protect wildlife habitat, prepare for flooding, manage development responsibly, and preserve the quality of life that draws people to Florida.

The consequences could also reach nonprofit organizations and the people they serve. The Florida Nonprofit Alliance reports that 91% of surveyed nonprofits consider local-government funding highly important to fulfilling their missions. Nearly half receive at least 25% of their annual revenue from local sources, and 28% receive at least half of their funding from local government.

When local governments must close budget gaps, grants, contracts, and partnerships with nonprofits may be among the resources under pressure- often at the same time that community needs rise. Florida nonprofits have raised concerns about potential effects on programs serving people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, crime victims, children, and families.

Every year, local fifth graders have the opportunity to immerse themselves in nature through Pelican Island Audubon Society's Audubon Advocates program. The program introduces students to the extraordinary diversity of Indian River County's ecosystems and helps cultivate the next generation of environmental stewards.

Become a Citizen Scientist!



In partnership with Indian River County Conservation, PIAS is seeking volunteers to help conduct monthly bird surveys at four County-owned properties! If you are interested in joining a team or acting as a Site Captain, please reach out to Missy at Missy@pelicanislandaudubon.com

This work is made possible through a partnership of county support and private donations, which share the cost of providing these experiences. If county funding were reduced, private donors could be asked to fill the gap simply to maintain the program at its current level. That could limit the number of students able to participate in an experience that connects them directly to the natural places that make this region special.

The potential impacts of Amendment 3 would extend far beyond one program and one nonprofit. Nonprofits are resilient, but philanthropy cannot fully replace predictable public investment. Protecting local capacity helps ensure that Pelican Island Audubon Society can continue educating future environmental stewards while other vital nonprofits continue serving children, families, seniors, vulnerable residents, and the environment across our region.

References

- Florida Nonprofit Alliance, "Florida Nonprofits Share Concerns About Potential Property Tax Amendment Impacts," August 24, 2026.
- Indian River Community Foundation, **7 Steps to Nonprofit Sustainability (In Anticipation of Amendment 3)**, August 24, 2026. [PRESENTATION-7-Steps-to-Nonprofit-Sustainability-Learn-United-2.pdf](#)
- Audubon Florida, "Vote No on Amendment 3 in November." www.audubon.org/florida

Migration is not just for birds

When we think about fall migration, monarch butterflies and birds usually get all the attention, but another remarkable migration is happening overhead—one involving millions of dragonflies.

Each fall, millions of dragonflies take to the skies and head south, with migration reaching its peak in September. Among them is the Common Green Darner (*Anax junius*), a striking dragonfly with a brilliant green body and blue markings. These tiny aerial acrobats can travel hundreds of miles during migration, with some journeys stretching more than 1,500 miles. Perhaps most fascinating, the dragonfly making its way south this fall may not be returning to a place it has previously visited. For some migratory populations, the annual journey occurs across multiple generations.

Coastal areas, lakeshores, and other natural features can act as pathways that concentrate migrating dragonflies. Florida's coastline is one of the locations where large movements have been observed.

And how do they know when it's time to go?

Researchers have found that weather plays an important role. Cooler nighttime temperatures can signal that it's time to begin the journey, while strong winds may cause dragonflies to pause their travels.

During the day, they take advantage of favorable conditions to head south, often following natural corridors along coastlines, lakes, and other landscapes.

Here in Indian River County, fall gives us a wonderful opportunity to look for these travelers.

On your next walk through a preserve, garden, or along the Lagoon, pause for a moment and look skyward. Watch for dragonflies coursing through the air, sometimes singly and sometimes in surprising numbers.

So, the next time you are outside this September, take a moment to look toward the sky. A dragonfly passing overhead may be part of a remarkable seasonal journey spanning hundreds of miles, one that most of us never notice.

by

Missy Weiss

PIAS
Executive
Director

Photo by Bob Montanaro.



Hunting Osprey at Sebastian Inlet State Park
by Bob Montanaro

Adult Intro to Birding Classes

Course instructor: Alexis Peralta

Course of 4 Saturday Classes

November - December Class Dates

Nov. 14 - 8:30AM - 2:30PM

Nov. 21 - 8:30AM - 11:30AM

Dec. 5 - 8:30AM - 11:30AM

Dec. 12 - 8:30AM - 11:30AM

January Class Dates

Jan. 2 - 8:30AM - 2:30PM

Jan. 9 - 8:30AM - 11:30AM

Jan. 23 - 8:30AM - 11:30AM

Jan. 30 - 8:30AM - 11:30AM

This is a hybrid course including classroom & field activity.

No supplies or equipment required.

Birding 2.0 Birding Course

Course instructor: Alexis Peralta

Saturday Classes (8:30AM to Noon), February 13, 20, & 27

Enhance & improve your birding knowledge & skills. Topics include bird language, changing plumage, & more!

Hybrid course including classroom & field activity.

No supplies or equipment required.

More info & register for all courses at PelicanIslandAudubon.org
\$95 for PIAS members / \$125 for non-members (includes membership) Questions: alexismperalta@yahoo.com

Join Us

by Missy Weiss
PIAS Executive Director

This fall, the Audubon House is coming alive with new opportunities for young people, families, and neighbors to discover the remarkable nature of Indian River County. From afterschool learning to campus exploration, these programs invite our community to look closely, ask questions, and build lasting connections with the birds, butterflies, plants, and habitats that make our area special.

Learning takes flight:

This fall marks the launch of another Audubon Advocates, an after-school program serving 50 students from four local schools: Vero Beach Elementary, Citrus Elementary, Fellsmere Academy, and Indian River Academy. Through hands-on activities, outdoor exploration, and nature-based learning, students will discover how they can become thoughtful stewards and advocates for the environment around them.

We also recently welcomed approximately 50 preschoolers and their families to the Audubon House campus. Young explorers

searched for birds, followed signs of nature, and experienced the excitement of observing the outdoors together. These early encounters with nature help children develop curiosity, confidence, and care for the living world.

More ways to connect:

Throughout fall and winter, the Audubon House will expand its regular on-campus and off-campus programs for adults, families, and children. Programs planned from October through May will offer meaningful ways to explore local wildlife and habitats:

- **October 20:** The Magic of Monarchs
- **October 24:** Weed Wrangle at Sebastian Stormwater Park
- **November 14, 21- December 5, 12:** Adult Introduction to Birding Workshop
- **November 27:** Field Trip to Riverside Park
- **April–May:** Spring bird, butterfly, and native-plant activities for all ages

Registration details and upcoming event listings can be found on Pelican Island Audubon's website:

www.pelicanislandaudubon.com



And So It Begins

by Jennifer Satterly
Environmental Educator

It has been a wonderful beginning to our after school Audubon Advocates program. We are super excited to have added Fellsmere Academy to our program this year. The students and teacher at Fellsmere are so happy to have this opportunity offered to them and they are fully enjoying our classes and exploring all the nature their area has to offer.

We have already started to dive into learning vocabulary words like ecosystem, observation, and ichthyologist (scientist who studies fish). By the end of the semester, these 5th graders will have learned 40 new vocabulary words. Along

with vocabulary, we have begun to learn what it means to be an advocate. Heather Stapleton from One Lagoon (IRLNEP) joined us for our first class and read *The Lorax* and *Horton Hears a Who*. The students had time during class to discuss how each character advocated and what they were advocating for. We talked about which style of advocacy worked best and why. The students will be working on these advocacy skills more as we continue through the semester.

During our second class, our students were given the opportunity to sharpen their observation skills as well as their mindfulness skills. Jodie Scales with Laura Riding Jackson Foundation joined us to help us learn how to slow our bodies down, how to use our five senses to observe our surroundings, and how to capture what we saw in our nature

journals. Students were given their very own nature journals to continue their skills at home. Each week they are asked to do one nature journal entry at home and then bring it in to share with me.

We were joined by artist Mary Lou Mullan to learn how to sketch a bird and their ecosystem and then they were given the opportunity to watercolor their masterpiece. We were taught that sketching allows us to slow down and pay attention to detail. This is a skill they can apply to their nature journaling. As the students get more involved in their art, their voices quiet down and they become very mindful of what they are doing. They don't even realize they are sharpening the skills we learned the week before.

This semester is already off to a great start. We are looking forward to so many more fun learning opportunities here at Audubon.

Love is in the air - again!

by Linda Chancellor



Photo by Bob Montanaro

It was September 5th when I pulled into the CVS's parking lot. Nothing seemed unusual until I approached the entrance and saw hundreds of flying Lovebugs. Larger females were attached to smaller males hence the name Lovebugs. More of the little black bugs, with their orange red thorax, were crawling up the walls and the surface of the automatic doors. There were so many of them flying in front of the doors so when the doors slid open some flew into the store. Many more laid dead on the floor. I immediately recalled the experience I had with lovebugs the previous spring. Last May I had seen hundreds of lovebugs flying around my garage door. Many more were lying dead on the driveway. There was a feeding frenzy as they fed off the nectar of the tiny white flowers of my blooming Simpson Stopper tree. Every morning, for at least four more days, there seemed to be more and more of them. I kept the garage door closed and I continued to sweep the dead ones off the driveway. I could not wait until they were gone for the season.

FYI – Lovebugs actually are not true bugs but are classified in the family *Diptera* which are flies. Adults live for about 3 to 4 days and feed on nectar giving flowers. After pairing and mating the female lays her eggs in mulch or decaying plant material. The larvae eat the decaying plant material, and their waste enriches the soil. After six months the larvae emerge from underground and the cycle continues. Adults emerge in April and May and again in August and September. Lovebugs are attracted to exhaust fumes and hot pavement because when the exhaust fumes are altered by sunlight, they produce a chemical compound that mimics the smell of decaying organic matter. Driving through swarms where large numbers of lovebugs are splattered on windshields can affect visibility and also cause damage to the car's paint if not removed.



**Pelican Island
Audubon Society**

Ask Me About Birds

Join Pelican Island Audubon Society staff and volunteers as we help answer questions, introduce people to birding and offer use of spotting scopes.

📍 **NOVEMBER 7**
Riverview Park, Sebastian | 9-11am

📍 **DECEMBER 5**
Riverside Park | 9-11am

📍 **JANUARY 2**
Jaycee Park Boardwalk | 9-11am

More dates to come!



All are welcome!



VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

October 14, 2026 at Audubon House
11am - 12pm

195 Oslo Rd., Vero Beach



Join the Pelican Island Audubon Society at our upcoming Volunteer Orientation! Whether you're interested in conservation, community science, or event outreach, we have a place for you. All are welcome to attend and learn how you can make a difference.

Volunteer Opportunities Include:

- ✓ Native Plant Nursery
- ✓ Community Science
- ✓ Outreach & Events
- ✓ Cleanups
- ✓ Maintenance/ Groundskeeping
- ✓ Weeding
- ✓ Field Trip/ Presentation Leads
- ✓ Fundraising

Contact Us

📞 772-567-3520

✉️ piasvolunteer@gmail.com

Adopt an Advocate! Please help support our 14-week outdoor science, after-school Audubon Advocates program, which focuses each year on 5th graders from four underserved elementary schools.

Goal: Improve science vocabulary, mental health, and opportunities for under-represented minorities and girls to be comfortable outdoors and become environmental advocates for Indian River County.

Focus: Introduce students to outdoor, hands-on Lagoon science, help them understand the interconnectedness of life and the value of all native species, and help them be good stewards of the environment.

The environmental educator takes students outdoors into nature to kayak, photograph, sketch, meet a variety

of scientists in the field, familiarize themselves with scientific methods, collect specimens, document their experiences, and educate others at school and their parents, family, and friends. While learning "leave no trace & earth manners."

Results: Educated, healthier, empowered students; new aspirations and possibilities for under-represented students; and, over time, a healthier Lagoon.

Please Adopt an Advocate: \$500 Supports one 5th Grader per term, or consider giving what you can.

Help fund one or more students to attend our 14-week after-school program at Audubon House. Thank you!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

My check is enclosed. Make check payable to Pelican Island Audubon Society, or donate online at PelicanIslandAudubon.org

☐ 1 Student \$500 ☐ any amount

☐ (Please check) if you would like an update on your sponsored student.

Join Our Team!

October 13 - 10AM
Volunteer Orientation at Audubon House
195 9th St. SE (Oslo Rd)
Learn more about all the volunteer opportunities at Pelican Island Audubon!

Pelican Island Audubon Society is looking for volunteers to help in the following areas:

- Native Gardens – Help watering plants and/or selling plants
- Bird Walks – Lead walks - Kayak Tours – Lead tours
- Outreach – Help with events such as Festivals, Landscape Conference, help with movie nights, greeting people at monthly meetings
- Teaching a course of interest

If you have any questions or the time to help with any of the above, please contact Lorna Thibeault at piasvolunteer@gmail.com or (203) 687-7156.

Go Green!

Members may sign up to have the Peligram emailed to them. Saves postage and paper. Email piaudubon@yahoo.com with your name & email address with "Peligram" in the subject line.



Pelican Island Audubon Society Membership Form

NAME _____	Enclosed is my:
	\$_____ \$30 for annual membership
	\$_____ \$35 for family membership
ADDRESS _____	\$_____ \$100 Scrub-Jay sustaining membership
	\$_____ \$200 Osprey sustaining membership
	\$_____ contribution
CITY, STATE ZIP _____	\$_____ TOTAL
	Please mail this completed form with a check made out to:
E-MAIL _____	Pelican Island Audubon Society
	P.O. Box 1833
	Vero Beach, FL 32961

Or join online using a credit card at www.PelicanIslandAudubon.org